

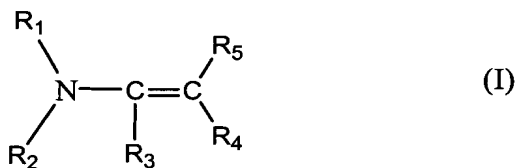
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (New): A method of accelerating the vulcanization of rubber, comprising:
adding to a rubber an enamine derived from a secondary amine as a vulcanization
accelerator,
wherein said rubber vulcanizes more quickly with said enamine, than without said
enamine.

Claim 22 (New): A method of accelerating the vulcanization of rubber, comprising:
adding to a rubber an enamine having the formula (I) as a vulcanization accelerator:



wherein:

R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and represent a linear or branched-chain C₁-C₁₈ alkyl radical; a C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl radical; a C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl radical; a C₆-C₁₈ aryl radical; a C₇-C₂₀ alkylaryl or arylalkyl radical; or R₁ and R₂, taken together with the nitrogen atom represent a C₃-C₈ heterocyclic radical, optionally containing a second heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, S and N;

R₃ and R₄ are the same or different and represent a hydrogen atom; a linear or branched-chain C₁-C₁₈ alkyl radical; a C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl radical; a C₆-C₁₈ aryl radical; a C₇-C₂₀

alkylaryl or arylalkyl radical; or R₃ and R₄ taken together with the C=C to which they are bonded represent a C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkenyl radical;

R₅ represents a hydrogen atom; a linear or branched-chain C₁-C₁₈ alkyl radical; a C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl radical; or when R₁ represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched C₁-C₁₈ alkyl radical, a C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl radical, a C₆-C₁₈ aryl radical or a C₇-C₂₀ alkylaryl or arylalkyl radical, or R₄ and R₅, taken together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, represent a C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkylenic radical;

wherein said rubber vulcanizes faster with said enamine than without said enamine.

Claim 23 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, ethylhexyl, butyl, octyl and phenyl.

Claim 24 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R₁ and R₂, taken together with the nitrogen atom, are a heterocyclic radical selected from the group consisting of morpholine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, thiomorpholine, thiazolidine and benzothiazolidine.

Claim 25 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and phenyl.

Claim 26 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R₃ and R₄, taken together with the C=C of formula (I), are a cycloalkenylic radical selected from the group consisting of cyclopentene, cyclohexene, cycloheptene, cyclooctene and cyclododecene.

Claim 27 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R_5 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, hexyl and heptyl.

Claim 28 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R_4 and R_5 , taken together with the carbon atom which joins them, are cyclohexylidene or cyclooctylidene.

Claim 29 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein said rubber is a synthetic rubber.

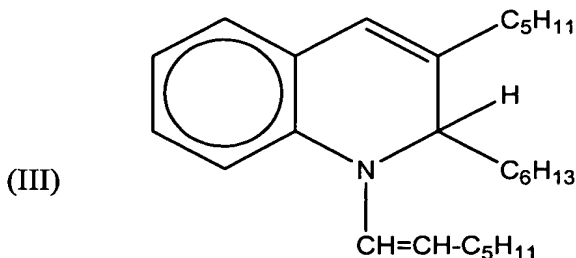
Claim 30 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein said rubber is a natural rubber.

Claim 31 (New): The method of Claim 29, wherein said synthetic rubber is selected from a group consisting of SBR, NBR, BR and EPDM.

Claim 32 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein said mixture further comprises a second vulcanization accelerator.

Claim 33 (New): The method of Claim 32, wherein said second vulcanization accelerator is a mercaptobenzothiazole sulfonamide.

Claim 34 (New): A method of accelerating the vulcanization of rubber, comprising:
adding to a rubber an enamine formula (III) as a vulcanization accelerator:



wherein said rubber vulcanizes faster with said enamine than without said enamine.

Claim 35 (New): The method of Claim 34, wherein said rubber is a synthetic rubber.

Claim 36 (New): The method of Claim 34, wherein said rubber is a natural rubber.

Claim 37 (New): The method of Claim 34, wherein said rubber is a synthetic rubber selected from the group consisting of SBR, NBR, BR and EPDM.

Claim 38 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein said enamine is the only vulcanization accelerator.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The original claims have been substituted by claims limiting the invention to the use of the defined enamines by method claims. No new matter has been introduced thereby.